

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-1

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# U.S. Envoys Hint At Possible Latin Naval Quarantine

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U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Anthony Cecil Eden Quainton yesterday refused to rule out the possibility of a naval quarantine aimed at reducing the "substantial" flow of arms and supplies to guerrillas in El Salvador.

His stance followed by a day U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane J. Kirkpatrick's suggestion that a demonstration of U.S. ability to interdict arms shipments on the high seas might be salutary.

Also yesterday, a top Pentagon official who requested anonymity said that the United States is "playing a little cat-and-mouse game" with the Nicaraguan government, and that a quarantine in the near future is "most unlikely."

Another top-ranking Pentagon official said yesterday that "the time is going to come" when a quarantine would begin if Nicaragua does not slow what the United States claims is a massive military buildup. However, he said there is no timetable for escalating planned U.S. naval maneuvers into a quarantine.

Appearing on "This Week With David Brinkley" (ABC, WJLA), Quainton was pressed to spell out U.S. goals in Nicaragua.

"Our policy," he said, "is not to topple the Sandinista government. Our policy is to try and modify its behavior in some substantial ways which are consistent with our interests and our vital security concerns throughout Central America."

Quainton said the United States wants to "get the Sandinistas to go back to the original goals of their revolution," which the ambassador said included "democracy . . . , a mixed economy and a truly non-aligned foreign policy."

In an interview Saturday on Cable News Network, Kirkpatrick said she thought it would be "useful to remind [the Nicaraguans] that they do not have a monopoly of force in the region."

"Are we showing them that the United States could . . . blockade Nicaragua?" Kirkpatrick was asked.

"Maybe," she replied. "Maybe we'll remind them of that. Maybe we're also doing something relevant to interdicting arms because they use—they do a lot of exporting arms into El Salvador by way of that Pacific corridor along the coast."

The blunt hints on a series of weekend television interviews were matched by growing expressions of alarm from several congressional Democrats. They protested that sending troops to Honduras for joint military exercises and stationing U.S. battleships, carriers and jet fighters off Nicaragua's coasts could violate the War Powers Act.

The Democrats—Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (N.Y.) and Christopher J. Dodd (Conn.) and Rep. Michael D. Barnes (Md.)—also were critical of a pending Pentagon request to more than double the number of U.S. military advisers in El Salvador from its longstanding but unofficial lid of 55 to 125.

Pentagon officials yesterday confirmed that Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger sent that recommendation to the White House last week. On Saturday, a White House spokesman said that such a request is not pending before President Reagan.

Reagan was asked by reporters upon his return yesterday to the White House from Camp David, "What about more advisers for El Salvador?" Waving off questions, he replied, "Not today."

One top Pentagon official yesterday said he believes that a quarantine is "most unlikely" in the near future. He said officials are leaving the possibility open for a reason.

"We're playing a little cat-and-mouse game with them, putting a little squeeze on, making them wonder what's going to happen next," the official said. "Ultimately, the idea is to convince them that allowing the El Salvador guerrillas to use Nicaragua for their headquarters for revolution is not a good idea if they want to keep their own damn revolution."

However, U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that the leftist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua faces little danger of being toppled without a much greater exercise of force, several sources indicated.

The latest National Intelligence Estimate on the troubled region, a composite study reflecting the views of the U.S. intelligence agencies, reportedly was completed June 30.

"It was interesting," one source said, "for the scenario it played out about where do you go from here. There are no good choices down the road."

Another source described it as blunt and confirmed that it had no dissenting footnotes.

Moynihan, who is vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Barnes, who is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Western Hemisphere affairs, yesterday expressed similar conclusions, but without naming administration documents they had in mind.

In his appearance on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WDMV), Moynihan contended that the United States ought to get tough with the Soviet Union instead of fumbling around in Central America. He advocated an ulti-

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